BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT

How the Youths of England Are Being Taught True Manliness.

Single file, a half-dozen English lads, khaki clad, broad-brimmed felt hats well tilted over noses and strapped under chins, trudged along the highway between the greenest of hedgerows. Silently they plodded, apparently bent on no other object than arriving at their destination. There was little or no conversation, and the sounds of the fields were only interrupted by the pad of their footfalls and the thump of their long staves.

Half concealed in the hedge at the roadside lay a man, dirty, disreputable, a vagabond. With insolent eyes he stared at the lads, and even chuckled derisively as they filed past. The boys gave no sign; it was as if they had not seen the half-hidden man. On they plodded a thousand paces, which is well on half a mile. Still they spoke not at all. Suddenly the leader signaled a halt and sat down upon the greensward while the lads gathered about him, says Clarence B. Kelland in the September American Boy.

"Wilson," said he, "did we see anything of importance on the road?"

"A man," replied Wilson.

"Describe him."

"He was a large man, dirty, with torn clothes."

"Is that all?"

"That is all I remember."

"Very good for a recruit. Browne, describe the man for Wilson so he may see how a first-class scout observes."

"The man," said Browne slowly and carefully, "was, I estimate, about an even six feet tall, he wore a plaid golf cap. His eyes were gray, and there was a scar on his right cheek running from the ear to the nose. He wore no collar. His coat was brown, patched at the right elbow; his trousers were black with a thin white thread running through, and were frayed at the heels. His shoes were very large, and there was a triangular hole in the sole of the left at the ball of the foot. I should say the man was about forty years old and weighed 180 pounds. See he passed here, for there in the sand is the mark of the shoe with the hole in the sole."

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So are the Boy Scouts trained and drilled in England; so are they taught to use their eyes; in this manner do they jaunt through the country improving mind and body, and seeking to be of service to their country and their neighbor.

More than 300,000 boys in Great Britain are members of this organization, which is regarded by the government as one of the most valuable instruments ever invented for the production and education of good patriotic citizens. It was organized in 1907 by Lieut. Gen. Sir Baden-Powell, one of the heroes of the Boer war. The purpose of this organization is not only to arouse patriotism in the boys of the country, but to give those boys a healthful object in life, to make them strong mentally and physically, and at the same time to furnish them with amusement, which at some time might be of the very highest value to their country in time of war.

While the Boy Scouts might be regarded somewhat in the light of a game, nevertheless its purpose is decidedly serious. This may best be seen by a reading of the oath which every boy takes upon becoming a member of the scouts: "On my honor, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and King; to help other people at all times; to obey the Scouts' law." The motto of the Scouts is "Be prepared," which means that every scout must be always in a state of readiness to do his duty, that he must be ready to obey every order, and that he must have applied himself so to the art of scouting that he will know just what to do in any emergency, and that he will have trained his body so that it will be able physically to carry out whatever it shall be called upon to perform.

The scout law is so short that it can be most easily learned, yet it is a very important law. Briefly, it is as follows: The honor of a scout is always inviolate. No scout will do a dishonorable act. If he makes a statement upon his honor, that statement is just the same to him as though he had made it upon a solemn oath. If a scout officer says to him, "I trust you on your honor to do this," he is bound to carry out this order and let nothing whatever come between him and its fulfillment.

A scout must be loyal to the King, to his officers, to his parents, his country and his employers. He must stick to them through thick and thin, always remembering that loyalty is a part of his honor. He must always be ready and eager to be useful and helpful to others. He must put the comfort of others before his own desires. It must be his endeavor to do a good turn for someone every day, and for such kindness he must accept no remuneration.

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Each scout is the brother of every other scout. No scout may be a snob. No matter what his social position may be, he is the equal of every other member of the organization. A scout must be always courteous. He must protect dumb animals. He must obey the orders of his parents and of his officers without question. If any order be unpleasant, he must carry it out so much the more quickly because it is his duty, only stating his objections to performing the act after he has performed it. He must be always cheerful in adversity. He must be thrifty. Every scout must be able to show that he has at least something in the savings bank.

The Boy Scouts' organization consists of the chief scout, who is Lieut. Gen. Sir R. S. Baden-Powell, K. C. B. Under the chief scout come the scout councils, of which there is one in every county or large city. These scout councils are composed of leading gentlemen and other citizens interested in the scout movement, and representatives of other organizations for boys in the district. It is their duty to advise local committees. Each scout council has a scout commissioner who is appointed by the chief scout and the council. He acts as secretary of the scout council and as inspector. He is responsible to headquarters for the Boy Scouts in his district. Under the authority of the scout councils are local committees, of which there is one in every town and vicinity. These local committees are composed of scout masters and others interested in the work among boys in the district. It is their duty to assist the scout masters in every way possible to develop the Boy Scouts' movement. Each local committee has a secretary whose duty is to keep a register and to report to the scout commissioner. The next unit of the organization is the troop. A troop consists of three or more patrols of boy scouts. The next is the patrol, which contains six to eight boy scouts, and lastly come the individual boys making up the patrol. Each of these patrols consist of six or eight scouts with a corporal and a patrol leader. Each patrol has a different name and call and secret signs. At the head of every troop is a scout master, who must be an older man, at least twenty years of age. He can enroll and discharge scouts. When a boy enrolls in the scouts he must serve on probation for one month, during which time he is known as a tenderfoot.

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At the end of this time he must take an examination to receive the second class scouts' badge. In this examination he must show that he has an elementary knowledge of first aid to the injured and of bandaging wounds; that he can signal and has some knowledge of the semaphore and of the Morse alphabet. He must be able to tie four of the following knots, in less than thirty seconds for each knot: Bowline, fisherman's bend, reef knot, clove hitch, and sheath bend. He must track a deer's spoor or a horse's track for a quarter of a mile in not less than fifteen minutes; and, if he is in a town, describe satisfactorily the contents one shop window out of four observed for one minute each. He must travel one mile at the scouts' pace in not less than thirteen minutes. He must be fully acquainted with all the scouts' laws and signs.

In order to advance in the organization and become a first-class scout, the candidate must pass more rigorous tests than those required of him when he became a second-class scout. He must be able to discover and point out the different points of the compass; he must make a journey alone of not less than fifteen miles by walking, riding, boat, or bicycle; he must be able to point out the proper means for saving life in a selected instance of accident by means of either fire, drowning, runaway horses, escaping gas, or breaking ice; and he must be able to bandage properly an injured patient or to revive one apparently drowned. He must show that he has brought a recruit to the scouts, and has taught him to tie the principal knots. He must be able to prepare and light a fire using no more than two matches, and to cook a quarter pound of flour and two potatoes without using cooking utensils. He must be able to swim fifty yards, read a map correctly, and draw an intelligent sketch map of some locality through which he has passed. He must be able to judge distance, size, numbers, and height within 25 per cent error.

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Having won the position of first-class scout, the boy may gain further honors for competency in certain branches. For instance, he may gain an honor badge for ambulance work; he may gain a marksman's badge, or a pioneer's badge.

In all these exercises, however, the greatest emphasis is laid upon the tenet of the order that even in contests brotherly love must prevail over rivalry and competition, and that the primary aim of the organization is to train boys to be manly, unselfish, helpful, and self-reliant.

There are numbers of most interesting exercises which the scouts are put through by their scout masters. These exercises all have a view to sharpening the intellect, to making the eye more keen, or the body more perfect.

The education of the boy scout also includes the reading of a number of good books. Among these are recommended "Kindnapped," by Robert Louis Stevenson; "Kim," by Rudyard Kipling; "Two Little Savages," by Ernest Thompson-Seton; "Heroes of Pioneering," by Edgar Sanderson.

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The uniform of the Boy Scouts consists of a hat, khaki color, with a flat, broad brim, with a strap around the brim, and a chin strap; a neckerchief of the especial color of the individual troop. This is worn knotted loosely about the throat, and at the end is also a second knot, which is to remind the scout that he is to do some good deed every day. The shirt is blue, khaki, or gray, with two patch pockets and shoulder-straps. The trousers are short, coming above the knees, and these may be either blue or khaki. About the waist is worn a belt of brown leather, upon which are swivels, a coat strap, pouch, and ax. The stockings are dark or khaki with colored tops. These come below the knee, the leg being left bare. Each scout carries a staff marked in feet and inches, and a haversack over his shoulder. Each scout must carry a whistle and knife.

The many objects of instruction of the Boy Scouts include scout craft in campaigning, which includes camp life and resourcefulness, hut making, fire lighting, cooking, judging distances and numbers, signaling, and pioneering. Another important branch upon which great stress is laid is obersavation, which consists in noting and memorizing details far and near, such as landmarks, the appearance of persons, number and placing of objects, so that either the person, place, or objects may be identified again. The power of deduction from tracks and signs is developed to the highest degree. The next branch of learning is woodcraft, which includes the study of animals, birds, plants, the stars, &c.; seamanship, with the knotting and splicing of ropes and management of boats, both single-handed and in crews, and some knowledge of engines; the use of the compass, and the telling of direction by the stars. The greatest importance is given to a consideration of the subject of chivalry. This teaches the ancient code of honor of knighthood, unselfishness, courage, duty, charity, and thrift. The chivalry intended to be taught is not the theoretical, impracticable chivalry, or the chivalry of knight errantry, but practical every-day, useful, courtesy.

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Some of the remaining subjects in the curriculum of the Boy Scout are lifesaving, endurance, hygiene, sanitation, patriotism, the history of the empire, and of the army and navy, the history and meaning of flags and medals, the duty of citizenship, marksmanship, aiding the police, and loyalty. Much of this instruction is given in the guise of games or of stories told about the campfire. It is the opinion of Gen. Baden Powell that the best way of imparting theoretical knowledge is to give it out in short installments with ample illustrative examples when sitting around a campfire or otherwise resting, and to follow this by a practical demonstration.

The general gives an instance of how this should be done, taking his example from the subject of observation. First, at the campfire over night the boys are told some interesting instance of the value of being able to track. Second, next morning the boys are taught to read tracks by making footmarks at different places, and shown how to read them and to deduce their meaning. In the afternoon this is followed by a game such as deer-stalking, in which one of the boys goes off as the deer with half a dozen tennis balls in his bag. Twenty minutes afterward four boys start after him, following his tracts, and each of them armed with a single tennis ball. The deer, after traveling a mile or two, hides and endeavors to ambush his hunters and get them within range of his tennis balls. Each hunter struck by the deer's tennis balls is counted gored to death. If, on the other hand, the deer is struck by three of the hunters' tennis balls, he is killed.

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But of all the precepts inculcated in the Boy Scouts the greatest is that section of scout law which says that every lad shall strive to do a good turn to some one every day—and without acceptance of remuneration. This does not mean that on every one of the 365 days of the year the Boy Scout must try to save a life, or that he shall take upon himself great personal risk; it does mean that he is bound once in twenty-four hours to perform some great service for his fellow-men. Its real meaning is that he shall be courteous, generous, ready to serve. If the scout can aid a stranger in his town to find the address he seeks he is satisfied that he has fulfilled the law, if he gives up his seat in a crowded car he has done his duty; if he runs an errand for a neighbor next door it counts as a good turn. But—and mark this well—he must accept no pay for what he does or the act does not go to his credit. He must regard simple thanks and the knowledge that he has done the the thing he ought to do as his ample remuneration. If the Boy Scouts did nothing save teach this one thing the organization would be one of the greatest influences for good in the present century.

This movement has not confined itself to England or Great Britain, but has spread to several of the continental countries, notably Russia, where the imperial government has given the Boy Scouts its countenance, and has done much in the hope of making it popular and profitable.

In the United States the Boy Scouts' movement has already taken shape. A national organization has been formed in New York, chartered by the government to organize the American Boy Scouts. This organizataion is empowered to grant charters to companies of Boy Scouts throughout the United States in cities, villages, and districts. The American Y. M. C. A. has become interested in this movement to the extent of giving it not only it countenance, but its support, and has been instrumental in forming a considerable number of companies of Boy Scouts which will operate largely under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. organization. At the present time the matter has not become so well developed or so wide-spread as to permit of any predictions concerning its ultimate success. There is no doubt this movement could be made both valuable and desirable if the proper means were made use of its development and propagation. It takes only a reading of the laws of the British organization to see the great good that it would do to the mass of American boys if they could be made to interest themselves in it in the way that their English brothers have interested themselves.

PERISHABLE EVIDENCE.

Proved Too Tempting for a Jury and a Defendant.

In its zeal to absorb all the facts in the case a jury in the District Court at Salt Lake City not only nullified its own verdict of guilty but made it impossible for the prosecution to make out a case before another grand jury.

A druggist was on trial for selling liquor without a license. While deliberating, says Case and Comment, the jury sent for the exhibit, a flask of whisky. When it was returned to the courtroom Judge Lewis noticed that it was empty.

He reprimanded and dismissed the jury and notified the defense that a motion for a new trial would be granted. The motion was made, and the State will have to dismiss the case for lack of its chief evidence.

On the same day, at Atlantic City, N. J., police officials were forced to withdraw a charge of thieving after they discovered the prisoner had eaten the evidence.

The patrolman claimed that he caught the accused stealing pies left by a baker on the doorstep of a Chelsea cottage, but on the way to the station house the prisoner calmly ate the pies and left no visible signs of the theft. Lacking evidence, Recorder Keffer offered to allow the man to go if he would leave the city, and the proposition was gratefully accepted.

BIG LAND DEAL IN MEXICO

Englishman Said to Be Spending $200,000,000 in Gold.

Avowed Purpose Is to Control Cattle Trade of Mexico and Central America.

Robert B. Buchanan, an Englishman, and fiscal agent of a Franco-German syndicate of capitalists centered in Berlin and Paris, is now in Mexico City for the purpose, it is said, of consummating the largest land transaction ever recorded. He is buying grazing and timber land in the Mexican republic to the value of $200,000,000 gold, and will buy more later on. Mr. Buchanan is buying everything that comes to his notice, large or small, and in some instances tracts at fancy prices, in order to insure contiguity.

Outside of land acquired by conquest, cession, or international agreement, there is no other instance in which so large a tract has ever changed ownership. Some of the land bought sold at as low as 30 cents an acre.

Mr. Buchanan, in a newspaper advertisement, makes the statement that he wishes to acquire the land for the purpose of controlling the export cattle trade of Mexico, Central America, and Brazil. Whether he intends to buy land to the same extent in the other countries mentioned is not known.

The hay and grain crops of Nova Scotia are most promising.

"HOOKEY."

(Written for The Washington Herald.)

I'm going away; I'd love to know,
Will you be sorry when I go?
Will you ask: "Where has she gone;
Do you think her stay will be long?"

Just to "hookey" a little while;
Bid me godspeed with tender smile;
I'll throw you kisses all the way,
Like a merry child let loose at play.

Hookey! Away from city sights;
The moon and stars my electric lights;
The going to bed by the ocean deep,
The waves will sing me "fast to sleep."

Going away from the proud and great!
I'd swing and swing on the big front gate;
I'd like to have you, arm in arm,
Hookeying across the dear old farm.

No bricks and mortar there I'll see;
Just plain country to "rest up" me.
I'll stretch my length near a "fishin' hole"
And take a nap at the end of my pole.

Hookey! To run along green lanes,
Where peace and quiet and beauty reigns.
I could put more cheer in my song
If you, dear, you would go along.

Hookey with breezes pure and sweet;
God's green world for tired feet.
While winds blow o'er the meadows wide,
I'd wish for you, dear, by my side.

Hookey along the forest pool,
Lilies opening sweet and cool;
I'll go the path the summer went,
The air still full of lilac scent.

Hookey where the fairies stay,
Sweet dreams linger of yesterday;
In the garden of long ago,
Hollyhocks nodding in a row.

Pathways bordered with mignonette;
Thank God it has its fragrance yet.
Hookey, sweetheart, you and I,
The sea, the flowers, dreams, and sky.

Hookey! A bit of rest, that's all;
Let all worry slip and fall.
Hookey! and all sorrows seem
Fancies of a fevered dream.

Hookey! Some day hands will be
Folded 'cross the breast of me;
My heart would leap if I knew
You would miss me, you dear, you!

Hookey! When it's time to rest,
And life's sun sinks in the west,
"Her faults were many," you might say,
"But I loved her best that way."

ALLIE SHARPE BALCH.

September, 1910.

SUPPLANT STEAM CAR

Electrics Building to Use in South Carolina.

GASOLINE ENGINE DRIVES ONE

Description of New Rolling Stock Which the Southern Railway Company Will Install on Short Lines. Experiments Prove Utility of the New Motive Power.

The new electric motor cars now being built for the Southern Railway Company will be decided improvements over the car now operate between Greenville and Belton, S. C.

The thorough test given to this car has enabled the officials of the company to decide on several changes that will contribute materially to the comfort of passengers. The new cars will be larger, with separate compartments, separate entrances, and separate toilet conveniences for white and colored passengers. Water coolers will be provided in each compartment.

Windows Raise Higher.

It has been found that for summer use in a climate like that of South Carolina, it is desirable that the windows be raised higher than is possible in the car now operated. Accordingly, in the new cars windows will raise higher, having a clear opening of twelve inches. In addition to this a new system of ventilation will be provided in the roof which will thoroughly ventilate the car and make it comfortable, even when the windows are all down.

The seats, which will be upholstered in crimson plush, will be larger, with higher backs, and will be more comfortable. The end of the vestibule will be provided with an outside door which can be closed to keep out the dust. In addition to these changes which contribute to the comfort of the passengers, numerous mechanical improvements will be incorporated in the new cars.

Gasoline Car Building.

In addition to these two electric cars, the Southern Railway Company is also having built a McKeon motor car, which will have an extreme length of seventy-five feet, ten inches, and will be divided into four compartments, one to accomodate the engine, the baggage and express room, and two passenger compartments designed for the separation of the races, one having a seating capacity of forty and the other of eighteen. These compartments will have separate entrances, and each will have its own lavatory, water cooler, and other conveniences.

The body of the car is of steel construction, of torpedo design. It is unique in appearance and will be exceedingly strong and comfortable. The seats will be of the latest design and will be covered with green leather.

Will Use Electric Lights.

The car will be lighted with electricity and in winter will be heated by hot water. The side windows raise to a clear height of eleven inches and the roof ventilation is designed to ventilate the car whether the windows are open or closed. The motive power of the car is a 200-horsepower gasoline motor, suspended from the trucks so that the motion of the engine does not in any way cause vibration to the body of the car.

As soon as one of these new electric motor cars has been received it will be substituted for the car now being operated between Greenville and Anderson. The other electric car and the McKeen car will be put in service in localities where they can be used to the best advantage.

Hardwood in Germany.

Very little hardwood worked flooring is imported into Germany, because upon any product of lumber which is surfaced, matched, or bored, the import duty is considerably higher than for rough lumber and it is cheaper to have the latter finished in the domestic sawmills.

MEANING OF DIAMONDS IN DOLLARS

The Price We Pay for Women's Vanity, and Why It Is Always Rising Higher.

"All this for woman's vanity," was the cynical remark of the late Randolph, Lord Churchill, as he surveyed the De Beers diamond mine—that literal hive of industry, where from 15,000 to 20,000 blacks and about 4,000 whites are continually boring farther and farther down into the earth for the materials wherewith the heart feminine gratifies its inordinate love of display.

In that "precious circle" of five miles, at Kimberley, all but a small fraction of the world's diamonds are turned out, says the Philadelphia North American.

The Germans have started a little syndicate of their own, and the Americans are going down into Brazil to revive the glories of the Braganzas. But it is to South Africa that the vain women and the foolish men must look for the bulk of these gems of "purest ray serene."

To London goes the output, where a syndicate of five firms is in the control of 98 per cent, or thereabouts, of the earth's total supply.

Since the time of Cecil Rhodes and the eclipse of Barney Barnato the De Beers syndicate has controlled the entire African output, which is farmed out to the London firms at so much per carat.

Should these syndicates fall out, there might be a reduction in price. It's not very probable, but possible. But for the next five years there's absolutely no chance for cheap diamonds. Word has but recently been received from abroad that the syndicates have renewed their agreements for five years. That means that the poor man will have to go without diamonds for a while longer.

Growth of Diamond Trade.

The growth and magnitude of the American diamond trade are little realized by the general public.

That a quarter of a billion dollars should have been expended on woman's vanity in ten years is little less than astounding. That is enough to keep the American navy going for a year, including all new construction work, and build a Dreadnought or two besides.

Furthermore, this terrific expenditure for glittering gewgaws has been a matter of the last decade. It's another of those things that shows why America's increase in wealth has been amazing the world.

From the time the first figures were collected, in 1867, until 1900, as the accompanying table shows, there were imported diamonds to the value of $143,032,734. In the ten following years the imports were nearly half again as great as in all the decades preceeding.

Surely that's going some.

Steadily, from the civil war times, the American has shown that the minute he gets rich and prosperous he goes in for diamonds. Usually his wife gets them. But, at any rate, he will buy diamonds. No way to stop him has yet been discovered.

The gambler of old was quick to discover that diamonds denoted prosperity. He splattered them over his shirt front and stuck them on such other parts of his apparel as he could find room.

As the nation gained in culture and education, even the most prosperous man did not care to place himself on a par with the gambler by "sporting" diamonds promiscuously. So he satisfied his mania for spending by investing in dog collars and similar ornaments of fabulous price and marvelous beauty.

It was almost an asset in the financial world for the newspapers to blazon forth the fact that Mrs. Newrich had managed to plaster the front of her gown with half a million worth of gems and had properly electrified the opera-goers on such and such a night. Or, that Mrs. Newrich, at London or some such place, had made royalty look cheap by the magnificence of her jewels.

This kind of press-agent work is not so common any more, because the general public has hardened to it. But it used to go fine. Dazzling royalty with her diamonds meant that Mrs. Newrich moved up a notch when she got back to America. That was why America took about half of the $600,000,000 worth of gems that have been sent from South Africa to London since 1867.

So it was, is, and probably always will be, as long as women are vain. The time when they won't be is probably as far off as the stars whose light hasn't yet had time to reach the earth.

Index to Prosperity.

But, to get back to business, the diamond is still the truest index to prosperity, as a survey of the imports following panic years will show. For instance, in 1893 the value of the stones brought in had been swelled, by boom times, to $16,235,332. Along came the panic. Next year the feminine vanity was appeased by only $5,411,076.

A survey of the accompanying table will show that the same thing happened but recently. In 1907 the imports were way up. In 1908 they were way down. But the most astounding fact is that the low-water mark of 1908, which was $13,764,415, was almost up to the high-water mark of 1893, which marked the apex of an era of good times.

Not only are diamonds the best financial weather vanes, but their importation, cutting, and sale have formed a tremendous business in the last decade.

Of recent years New York has been cutting most of the diamonds of a carat or more that are sold in America. It is said, in fact, that for real value and beauty the American city has Amsterdam and Antwerp backed off the map.

The Dutch towns are still employing small armies of men—12,000 or more. But they are said to cut a smaller quantity of fine, big gems than are turned out by the 500 men employed in New York. That is because the latter seldom touch a stone that will fine down to less than three-quarters of a carat, while in Holland the highest paid men are those who can put fifty-six perfect facets on a brilliant so small that sixty of them weigh but a carat. As this work is so trying on the eyes that it not infrequently causes blindness, the American men will have none of it. They insist on taking nothing but the kernels and leaving all the chaff for their foreign brothers, who are paid much less.

To supply materials for these thousands of diamond cutters, the De Beers Company, which controls 90 per cent of the South African product, digs up every year a cube of earth 420 feet each way. That means a block larger than any cathedral in the world, and some of it comes from almost half a mile beneath the earth's surface.

An army of Zulus and Kaffirs is continually engaged in dynamiting loose the diamond dirt and sending it to the surface, where it is first mashed, washed, and then put through automatic separators.

These latter have done more to simplify the operations of diamond mining than any other invention. Until a few years ago it was necessary that all the dirt should be sorted, or picked over, by hand. This not only entailed terrific labor, but a considerable loss.

Now the washed diamond dirt, from which 50 per cent of the original earth has been extracted, is run through pulsating machines, which consist of cast-iron plates covered with grease. One of the employes, Fred Kirsten, had reasoned that, as grease never stuck to anything except the diamonds, nothing but the diamonds would stick to grease. It worked. The first layer of grease-covered plates catches all but a small percentage of the stones, and the lower ones gather up what are left. There is practically no loss.

Ruins Do the Work.

Before the dirt is placed in these machines it is exposed on the company's compounds for several months to a year. The rains do their work, and second cousins to our road rollers do the rest.

When the "blue" has been well broken up, it is conveyed in automatic trucks to the washing machines, where about half of the earth has been so well pulverized that it will pass through a mesh of the sixteenth of an inch.

Then comes the mechanical sorting, which disposes of the 12,000 truck loads per day, which were formerly sorted by hand. Imagine the difference!

Now all that is necessary is to scrape the grease off the machines and melt it away from the diamonds. When it cools off it can be used again, so there is practically no waste.

The labor that is required to get this "blue dirt" ready for the automatic separators is something beyond imagination. If the women who display themselves with the flashing stones could realize the toil it took to produce them, the feminine vanity might almost turn to veneration.

In compounds that are more strictly kept than prisons there are thousands of aboriginal Africans who voluntarily indenture themselves as slaves for about $1.25 a day. They go down into the depths and blast; they perform all the heavy work that goes with every form of mining, with the additional burden of being herded together like cattle.

The stockades in which they are kept are models of sanitation, it is true. They have to be, or there would very shortly be a shortage of labor. They are lighted by electricity and are kept as clean as the buildings on a model dairy farm.

Four acres are set apart by the De Beers Company for each compound, which holds 3,000 men. Fringing the walls are iron cabins, divided into rooms 25 by 50 feet, each room the abiding place of from twenty to twenty-five men. They also are lighted by electricity, and the chief furniture is wooden bunks.

In each stockade there is a hospital and dispensary and a church, where missionaries conduct services on Sunday and give secular instruction throughout the week.

The chief amusement is swimming, and in the center of each stockade there is a pool, where hundreds are usually to be found disporting themselves.

Once in these stockades the African stays there until his term of servitude is up. Three or four months is the minimum. Some of the men have been there for as long as ten years, preferring the drudgery of the mines to the dangers of the jungles.

Men Never Intermingle.

There are seventeen of these stockades, and each is a community unto itself. The men never intermingle. They do not even get out to go to work. From each compound to that part of the mines which it feeds are underground passages. Through these the laborers defile as they enter and leave the mines.

Even the sky is cut off from them. Overhead is a fine wire netting, so that diamonds may not be secreted and thrown to confederates outside.

It is just as hard to get in as it is to get out. For a period of about twenty years the mine managers have been planning and scheming to reduce the possibilities of theft, and they have got them down to a minimum.

Before a laborer is accepted he must pass a strict medical examination. Any weakness is a disqualification. Then he must cleanse himself thoroughly. When his term of detention is over, provided he is acceptable, he goes into his stockade, and he doesn't go out again until the time for which he has indentured himself is up.

Supposing he wants to leave. He doesn't get out at once. He goes back to the detention quarters, where not only are all his clothes thoroughly searched, but his person rigidly examined. He stays there long enough for it to be certain that he has not swallowed any gems with the idea of disgorging them when he is free.

Along with the overhead netting and the periods of detention have come a great decrease in the number of stones stolen. It is now almost impossible for even the most cunning native to conceal anything inside or outside his person so effectually that it will escape the eagle-eyed inspectors for a period of several days.

When the jungle man comes to the mines, he usually wears, while in the compounds, a woolen shirt, trousers, and shoes. At work, however, his attire is often so abbreviated that there is very little left.

On leaving the company's employ the native enters the detention room absolutely naked and his clothes are marked and stored, so that the chance of his being able to get away with anything is so minute as to be hardly worth considering.

In the old days, however, some daring men went to almost incredible extremes to steal. One native swallowed stones in the rough worth $3,750. Another gulped down a gem weighing 152 carats, which was as large as a chestnut.

Hid Gems in His Leg.

One time a native in the De Beers convict station made an incision under his shin bone, and in it concealed some small diamonds wrapped in a rag. He began to show signs of tetanus, and this led to the discovery of his theft by a visiting surgeon.

Now there is very seldom an attempt at anything of the sort, because the compound system has thoroughly discouraged theft. Indeed, the entire business, since the coming of Cecil Rhodes, in 1887, has been systematized to the last straw.

When Rhodes took hold there were many small claims and a few large ones held around Kimberley. Barney Barnato, he of peculiar name and picturesque career, was looked upon as the dictator of diamonds.

All that Rhodes changed in a jiffy. He soon wrested the supremacy from Barnato, bought up practically all the small claims, and made himself supreme. Along with his administration came the most improved machinery and the most careful business methods.

Then followed that arrangement with the London syndicate, composed of five firms, to take all the output of the mines at a specified price. Gradually the South African output became greater than all the others, the demand for diamonds increased by leaps and bounds, and the London syndicate became supreme, controlling all but a very small percentage of the total production. Now the agreements with the syndicate are made for five-year periods, and, as before stated, the contract having been recently renewed for another five years, there is no probability of a slump in prices, because the producers and the salesmen are in league to keep them up.

Practically the only opponents to the syndicate, at present, are at the Germans in the Southwest African fields, where from 500,000 to 600,000 carats are turned out annually. Most of the stones, however, are of less than a carat in weight. They are fairly well distributed through a gravelly soil, which is supposed to have been thrown up by volcanoes which have since disappeared off the coast.

It is possible that the fields are capable of being worked on a considerably more extensive scale than they have been, but it is hardly probable, unless totally unlooked-for finds are made, that they will rival the great De Beers combine.

AMERICA'S DIAMOND TRADE AT A GLANCE

IMPORTS OF DIAMONDS.

1900	$11,782,171
1901	18,255,453
1902	18,887,523
1903	26,507,786
1904	18,804,870
1905	27,410,447
1906	34,862,551
1907	35,129,590
1908	13,764,415
1909	24,074,701
	$229,479,507
Previous imports since 1867	143,032,734
	$372,512,241

TOTAL IMPORTS OF PRECIOUS STONES.

1900	$14,859,018
1901	21,214,462
1902	24,133,874
1903	32,307,219
1904	23,626,608
1905	33,761,506
1906	40,380,762
1907	42,468,022
1908	16,714,137
1909	29,373,070
	$279,038,078

IMPORTS OF DIAMONDS FOR THE DECADE, 1890-99.

1890	$12,383,334
1891	13,271,596
1892	13,451,007
1893	16,235,332
1894	5,411,076
1895	7,426,168
1896	6,712,415
1897	1,985,800
1898	6,955,789
1899	12,175,550
	$96,008,075
Increase of imports in succeeding decade, 1900-09	$133,471,432

STARTS A FIREPROOF CITY

Mrs. Russell Sage Seeks to Give Poor Men Safe Homes.

Unique Plan Proposed at Forest Hills, Long Island, Backed by Millions.

Mrs. Russell Sage, widow of Russell Sage, has started to create a "model citiy," all fireproof. It is to be at Forest Hills, Long Island, and its purpose is to provide comfortable homes for people of moderate means. Each man will be enabled to own his own home, with a little garden, and there will be playgrounds and plenty of fresh air for the children.

At the outset Mrs. Sage and her advisers decided that the homes must be fireproof. An experiment station for testing all kinds of materials has been built at Seawaren, N. J. Grosvenor Atterbury, the architect who planned the new community, is in charge of the tests.

The construction of the "model city" has now been begun with two terra-cotta houses. Walls, floors, and partitions in these buildings are to be of the same kind of blocks used in the "skyscrapers" of New York City. This material has been found, after elaborate tests, to be thoroughly fire resisting.

The terra-cotta blocks now being used at Forest Hills went through a heat of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit in the process of manufacture, so that it is not possible for them to be affected by any degree of heat that may be encountered in the future. The hollow spaces in the blocks act as nonconductors of heat, and thus the terra-cotta houses have the advantage of being warmer in winter and cooler in summer than other houses.

Market for Philippine Lumber.

A strong effort is being made at the present time to increase the demand in China for lumber from the Philippine Islands, and there can be no doubt that this will, in the near future, constitute an important factor in China's lumber trade.

Reversed.

From Tit-Bits.

Miss Bikely—So you have given up advocating woman's rights?

Miss Passee—Yes, I now go in for women's lefts.

"Women's lefts? What's that?"

"Widowers."